

SOCIETY

THE children's party which took place at the White House yesterday afternoon, between 4 and 6:30 o'clock, was the largest affair of the kind that has taken place since the days of President Tyler, when he entertained the grandparents of some of the little folks of yesterday at a fancy dress ball, given in honor of his granddaughter, little Fannie Tyler.

A few of the social grande dames of today and many an old admiral or general will be able to recall the gay and bewildering scene in the East Room, when well-known playmates were transformed into strange kings and queens, gallant knights, mischievous pages, brave soldiers, pretty princesses, shy little Quakers, and plain peasant girls.

The beautiful little hostess, dressed as Titania, in a spangled satin gown, gaily wings, tiny slippers, and carrying a silver wand, was queen in every sense. Seated upon a throne, and surrounded by her small subjects, she received her guests in truly royal style. Each bashful little boy and girl had to walk the entire length of the long room and make obeisance to the stately little ruler before mingling with their companions. As France had not at that time introduced the waltz, the gay little company danced the Virginia reel and what would now be styled country dances. Now and then negro servants bearing large trays of lemonade, ice cream, and small cakes, made their way through the crowded room and dispensed refreshments.

Yesterday it was different. The table set in the handsome state dining room was decorated with masses of red carnations, and lighted by many red candle tapers. Cakes of richer varieties were served, and ices were molded in the form of a miniature Santa Claus, too pretty, some of the wee ones thought, to eat.

The entertainment, which began with a musical program given by the "Roney Boys" Concert Company, of Chicago, ended with a dance. The Marine Band, in red coats and gold lace furnished the music for the older girls and boys to dance, while the younger ones played games in the parlors.

Mrs. Roosevelt was assisted in entertaining her young guests by the women of the Cabinet, Mrs. Loeb and Miss Hagner. The President laid aside the cares of state, and for a while joined in the merriment of the children.

Six hundred invitations were issued, and included the juvenile portion of the Cabinet, diplomatic, Senatorial, and Representative circles, as well as the many friends of the young Roosevelts from resident society, all of whom came untrammelled, with the exception of the very young children who were accompanied by their nurses, for whom a place was provided on the ground floor.

Weddings—Engagements.

Young-Beth.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Booth, of Columbus, Ohio, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Florence, to Charles D. Young, of this city.

Thomas-McClary.

The marriage of Miss Mary Stuart McClary, daughter of J. S. McClary, of Orange county, Va., and Joseph B. Thomas, of this city, will take place tomorrow in Waddell Presbyterian Church, Rapidan, Va.

MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY.

On Thursday evening Mr. and Mrs. Albert E. Dyer, of 1817 K Street northwest, gave an old-time English Christmas dinner in honor of the second anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Agnew. Covers were laid for twelve.

The dining room was tastefully decorated with the season's flowers and evergreens, the principal being American Beauty roses.

Among those present were Mrs. Helen Neil Howard, of Skowhegan, Me., who is a friend and co-worker of Jacob A. Riss; Mr. Knight, of Hacklestown, N. J.; Mr. De Camp, Mrs. Frazer, and other friends and relatives of Mr. and Mrs. Agnew.

ANOTHER DEBUTANTE TEA.

A charmingly appointed tea took place yesterday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Healy Dall, when Mrs. Dall presented her young daughter, Miss Marion Dall.

The hostess was assisted in the drawing room by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carroll Whitney, of New York, grand parents of the debutante; Mrs. Caroline H. Dall, Mrs. William Curtis Hill, Miss Atkinson, of Baltimore; Miss Whitney, of New York; Miss Walker, Miss Taylor, Arms Miss Fay Fry, and Miss Eloise North, Miss Grace Clarke, Miss Constance Leupp, and Miss Burrell, four buds who will at an early date be presented to society.

The hostesses in the dining room included Mrs. James Rudolph Garfield, Mrs. Charles W. Richardson, Mrs. J. L. McGee, and Miss White.

DANCES.

The week between Christmas and New Year will be a gay one as regards dinner and dances for young people. The college element and the debutante will of course, occupy the center of the stage, but after New Year the college men and the debutante alike will have to the second place, for then will come the dances and dinners for the older set—the debutantes of two, three or more seasons ago.

There is no longer any speculation as to the gaiety of the season after the holidays are over. Preparations have been made for so many entertainments that they will positively have to be crowded in, as the season between the first of the year and Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 17, is so short.

Merriment reigned supreme in the handsome new home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Wash last evening, when they entertained at a dinner dance in honor of their daughter, Miss Evelyn Wash, and their house guests, Miss Dorothy Morgan, of New Haven, and Miss Fanny Brower, of New York, schoolmates of Miss Wash. About forty young people were present at the dinner, and took part in the dance which followed.

Mr. Scoville gave a dance at Rauscher's last evening, when the debutantes of this and last season were the guests.

Another dance of last evening was given by Mr. Scott, at his residence in Connecticut Avenue.

Mr. Lester A. Barr has cards out for a dance on next Thursday, in honor of his debutante daughter, Miss Ida May Barr, whose introduction to society

takes place next Wednesday at the Barr residence, 2117 California Avenue.

The Junior Subscription Dance, or as it has been styled, the dance of the "understudies," to be given at Rauscher's tomorrow evening, will include the debutantes of this season and many of those of next. The committee in charge are some of next winter's debutantes. They are Miss Alice B. Shepard, Miss Cassie Schroeder, Miss Bula Bateman, Miss Alexandrine Fitch, and Miss Eleanor Hoyt. The chaperons are: Mrs. Robert Fitch Shepard, Mrs. Seaton Schroeder, Mrs. Bateman, Mrs. Henry Cleveland Perkins, Mrs. Henry W. Fitch, and Mrs. Frank Lee Denny.

The cotillon, which Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Wash will give in honor of Mrs. Roosevelt, will take place on Tuesday night, and will be one of the most brilliant events of the week.

Another dance of the week will be given by the Central High School alumni, at the Cairo on Tuesday night.

The second dance of the season of the Georgetown Junior Assembly, will take place at the Linticum Institute Tuesday evening, December 29. The chaperons will include Mrs. William Conard, Mrs. Du Bose, Mrs. H. Cragin, Mrs. Downs Wilson, Mrs. William B. Orms, and Mrs. Mac Abov.

Mr. and Mrs. John R. McLean will give a dinner dance on Wednesday, when their guest, Miss Correllia Wolcott, daughter of Mr. Roger Wolcott, of Boston, and a bud of this year, will be the guest of honor.

Senator Keen's dinner dance for his niece, Miss Christine Roosevelt, announced so long ago, takes place on Thursday evening, when the young relatives of the Keen and Roosevelt families will dance out the old year.

Col. and Mrs. R. L. Fleming will also give a dance on New Year Eve, when their school daughter, Miss India Bell Fleming, will entertain her young friends.

The Southern Relief Society charity ball to be held on February 1, at the Arlington, promises to eclipse all other balls given by the society in the past. The Marine Band will furnish the music. Besides the Southern contingent of Washington there will also be a large attendance from army and navy circles.

Chit-Chat.

John Todd Hill, who has been named United States consul to Greytown, Nicaragua, is a resident of Saybrook, Conn. He is an artist and sculptor and was formerly an instructor at Drexel Institute. He is a graduate of Williams College and studied in Paris for many years.

Miss Peters, daughter of Lieutenant Commander Peters, will entertain at a tea on Tuesday.

Among the Washington young people who attended the Junior cotillon in Baltimore on Christmas night were Miss Minnerode, C. Powell Minnerode, Douglas B. Sterrett, and George Witner.

Miss Flora A. Hench, of Philadelphia, is visiting her brother, John K. Hench, at his home, 27 A Street southeast.

Mrs. J. K. House and Mrs. Carrie Millard, of Maquoketa, Iowa, are spending the holidays in Washington.

Miss Deering has invitations out for a small tea Thursday, December 31, in honor of Miss Ridgely, the debutante daughter of William B. Ridgely. The invitations are limited to the buds of recent seasons and younger set of men.

Miss Florence Marinelli is spending the holidays in Richmond with her sister, Mrs. A. L. Morra.

Commander and Mrs. N. H. Sargent observed the second of their two evenings at home last night. Their attrac-

BARONESS VON DEM BUSSCHE



Baroness von dem Busche, wife of the first secretary of the German embassy, is considered one of the most beautiful women in the Diplomatic Corps. She is young and winsome, and is fast becoming one of the most popular hostesses of the foreign colony.

ive home is a favorite meeting place for society in general and "diners out" in particular, who usually end up at Mrs. Sargent's, Miss Heloise Sargent aids her mother in receiving.

Mrs. W. D. Burch is visiting Mrs. F. A. Burch of 202 B Street northeast, where she will be pleased to receive her friends during the holidays.

Prof. M. A. Young, of Shannondale, Pa., is spending a short time in Washington.

A CHRISTMAS PARTY.

The Cuban minister and Mme. Quesada entertained a gay party of little folks at the legation, in Sixteenth Street, on Christmas Day, from 3 to 6 o'clock, in honor of their charming little daughter, Aurora, and her cousins, Angela and Gayetano Quesada, who, with their father, Dr. Quesada, are the house guests of the minister and his wife.

Mme. Quesada was assisted in enter-

taining her small guests by Mrs. Leo Phillips, Mrs. Rivero, and Miss Rivero. There was a beautiful Christmas tree, brightly lighted, a fishing pond, which afforded great amusement for the little ones, games of all kinds, music and dancing, and in the prettily decorated dining room Christmas dainties were served in the most attractive forms.

Those present included Dorris Heywood, Margaret Smith, Margaret Draper, Louise Helen, Margaret Perrin, Sibyl Hale, the Misses Calderon, little daughters of the Peruvian minister; Rosa Merou, Charlotte Pettus, Angela Quesada and Gayetano Quesada, Mary McCaulley, Katherine Lester, Sophie Gana, Katherine McClint, Guadalupe Torres, Horace Shour, Julia and Alice Whitling, Margaret Barbour, Hyacinth Camplio, Hamilton Warner, George Leger, Sophia Johnston, Ellen Lemly, Eleanor Reymann, and the seven children of Senor Rivera, of the Mexican legation. A most interested guest on this oc-

casion was Dr. Miranda, of Havana, Mme. Quesada's father, a frequent visitor to Washington, and at present the guest of his daughter and son-in-law.

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—Here are some of the bargains.

Boas and Stoles

One white and one black Ostreich Feather Stole, marked \$37.50; reduced to **\$25.00**

One black and one white and black Ostreich Feather Cape, with Stole ends; marked \$160 and \$125; reduced to **\$45.00**

Black and White Marabou Feather Cape, marked \$68; reduced to **\$32.50**

White Coque Feather Boas and Stoles—2 of each—marked \$5; reduced to **\$3.50**

Three fine liberty silk Stoles, all white and black and white, marked \$15 to \$30; reduced to **\$10.00**

Two White Liberty Silk Ruches, marked \$7.50; reduced to **\$5.00**

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—An elegant line of small Neckwear—Stocks, Ties, and Bowties—regularly sold for 75c, \$1.25, up to \$1.75—reduced to **50c**

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY ITEMS.

(Special to The Washington Times.)

BOYDS, Md., Dec. 26.—The young people of Boyds and Dickersons will give their usual annual Christmas ball in Boyd Hall, at Boyds, tomorrow evening. A number of invitations have been sent out. The committee consists of Elmer E. Hoyle, Charles T. Brosius, R. Brooke Jones, and J. B. Holland.

George F. Pollock, of Boyds, who is connected with the Land Office of the United States Government as assistant attorney general, has again been sent back to the vicinity of Duluth, Minn., to dispose of land for the Government.

Robert A. Pollock, State senator of Stark county, Ohio, who has been here visiting relatives, has returned to Columbus, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Williams, and two daughters, Esther and Lorraine, will spend the winter in Annapolis. Mr. Williams is one of the newly elected members of the house of delegates from Montgomery county.

Theodore A. McKee, of this place, has returned from Kentucky, where he has been for several months engaged in railroad construction work.

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Darby, Sr., a reception was given Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Darby, Jr., upon their return from their trip South on their honeymoon. Mr. Darby and Julia Alhutt, now Mrs. Darby, were married at Dawsonville, ten days ago, being one of the most brilliant weddings of the season.

Mrs. Herbert S. Darby has returned to her home at Clarksburg after a visit to Baltimore.

Della J. Emerson of Washington is here visiting her parents.

Mollie Stearns of Washington is the guest of Mrs. Deborah J. Israel here.

The home of George Hawkins at Laytonsville will be the scene of a brilliant wedding Wednesday evening. His daughter, Edith S. Hawkins, was married to Ira M. Washburn, a prominent young man of that vicinity. A number of young friends were present. The parlors were prettily trimmed with ferns, flowers, and plants. The Rev. William Slinkey of Mount Carmel Church officiated. A collation was served after the ceremony. The bride and groom departed for Washington and Baltimore on their honeymoon. They will make their home near Laytonsville.

Lucy Mason of Rockville has gone to Comom, Va., to spend a few weeks with relatives and friends.

The usual annual Christmas entertainment given at the Presbyterian Church, which is usually a brilliant success, will be given Wednesday evening of next week at Boyds.

Robert Lee Stanley of the vicinity of Damascus, this county, and Alma Purdum, daughter of Columbus F. Purdum, a prominent farmer of that section, were married Thursday at the home of the bride in the presence of friends of both bride and groom. The Rev. S. Strassburg officiated. After the ceremony the bride and groom departed for a trip north.

M. E. Higgins of Washington is at home visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James L. Higgins.

Mrs. Edith Fulk of Washington Grove is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Watkins.

LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY

Upon the question whether life-bearing planets can exist in other solar systems than our own the answer of science is clear and distinct. It is precisely the same which Prof. Newcomb recently gave concerning the possible inhabitants of Mars: "The reader knows just as much of the subject as I do, and that is nothing at all."

Within our solar system we can indeed form some crude estimate of probabilities, beyond it nothing. All the amazing progress of modern science, all the revelations made by the spectroscopic or by photographic, all the advance in biology have not brought us one step nearer an answer to the question, "Is this the only inhabited world?" We stand essentially where Whewell and Brewster did half a century ago, or, we might indeed say, where Galileo and Copernicus were 300 years ago. We can indeed spin out the discussion at greater length than our predecessors and can introduce a far greater number of more or less irrelevant facts, but of serious argument, either for or against, we are entirely destitute. Knowledge.

One Redeeming Feature.

The Man in the Third Row—What do you think of the quartet?
The Man Beside Him—Well, it won't take as long as four solos—Puck.

Commencing Monday, Dec. 28

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